

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 6, 7 and 12 being independent.

Examiner Lett is thanked for indicating that Claim 6 is allowable.

Claims 1-5 and 7-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,726,768 to Ishikawa et al., hereinafter *Ishikawa*.

Ishikawa discloses an image communication apparatus. A facsimile control unit 1-1 is connected to a data converting unit 1-3, which is in turn connected to a host CPU 1-5. A printing unit 1-4 is connected to the data converting unit 1-3 and the facsimile control unit 1-1. The facsimile control unit 1-1 is connected to an outside communication line (see Fig. 1).

The main purpose of *Ishikawa* is to deal with the problem of competing print jobs at the printing unit. That is, what to do when the host CPU 1-5 and the facsimile control unit 1-1 both send jobs to be printed. As disclosed in *Ishikawa*, multiple modes assigning different priorities are used, e.g., AUTO mode, FAX priority mode, PC priority mode, FAX mode, and PC mode (column 8, line 65 to column 10, line 9). In the AUTO mode, the apparatus automatically switches between the FAX mode and the PC mode and performs the printing control after finishing the previous printing control. In the FAX priority mode, upon receipt of a FAX job during printing operation of a PC job, the apparatus temporarily suspends the printing operation between a previous page and the next page of the PC job. In the PC priority mode, upon receipt of a PC print job while printing a FAX job, the apparatus temporarily

suspends the FAX printing operation between a previous page and a next page. In the FAX mode, the apparatus is unable to print data of a PC job. In the PC mode, the apparatus is unable to print a FAX job. These different modes are described in more detail in column 8, line 65 through column 10, line 9 of *Ishikawa*.

Claims 1, 7 and 12 define combinations including features generally directed toward switching a bus between transmission from the image reader to the external computer and transmission from the external computer to the printing unit. The switching is in response to a signal that is generated based on an operation timing of the printing unit.

For example, according to one preferred embodiment, as described beginning on page 10, line 15 of the present application, the transfer of data along the bus is dependent on a scan enable signal and a print enable signal. The scan enable signal and print enable signal are based on a clock signal, as shown in Fig. 2. As the phases are offset by half, i.e., 180 degrees, one or the other is active at any time. The scan image data and the print image data are alternately transferred on a pixel by pixel basis through the bus, based on the cycle of the clock signal. The purpose is to allow a single bus to alternately transfer data from a scanner to a host computer and from a host computer to a printer, thereby achieving "simultaneous" transfer.

In setting forth the rejection of Claims 1, 7 and 12, the converting unit 1-3 is relied upon for a disclosure of the claimed switching means. In support of this reliance, attention is directed to column 26, lines 31-36 where it is stated that the data converting unit 1-3 might cause the printing unit 1-4 to print the read image data in parallel, or might send the read image data to the host 1-5.

It is respectfully pointed out that the portion of *Ishikawa* relied on in the Official Action does not disclose that for which it is relied upon. That is, the data converting unit 1-3, as discussed in column 26, lines 31-36, merely relates to the transmitting operation of the read image data and has nothing to do with the transmission of image data from an external computer to a printing unit. Therefore, *Ishikawa* does not disclose at least a switching means together with the other claimed features defined by Claims 1, 7 and 12.

Additionally, there seems to be no reason why *Ishikawa* would include the claimed switching means because the main purpose of *Ishikawa* is to alternate between FAX mode and PC mode. As noted earlier, the FAX mode and PC mode are set by the user and respective print jobs override one another depending on the set mode. That is, the switching between the different modes has nothing to do with switching a bus between transmission from an image reader to an external computer and transmission from an external computer to a printing unit, based on operating timing of the printing unit, as defined by the claims. For at least that reason too, Claims 1, 7 and 12 are allowable.

Claims 2-5, 8-11 and 13-16 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claims, and also because they additionally define over the cited document.

For at least the above-reasons, it is requested that all the rejections be withdrawn and that this application be allowed in a timely manner.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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